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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Cresswell

Serial No.: 09/681,912

Filed: 06/25/2001

Title: RINSE SCREEN FOR A WATER BUCKET

Examiner: Ocampo

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COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated 10/04/02, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the second, third, and fourth paragraphs of the Detailed Description Of the Preferred Embodiment as follows:

The screen comprises a platform 12 supported on a skirt 14 depending vertically at a skirt proximal end 33 from the platform 12 at a platform perimeter 30. The platform 12 typically slants from a platform upper portion 15 to a platform lower portion 16. For example, the platform 12 in a preferred embodiment slants from the platform upper portion 15 at a first perimeter portion 18 to a platform lower portion 16 on a perimeter lower portion 22. The platform 12 includes a plurality of holes 24 therethrough arrayed throughout the platform generally that provides for water to pass through to the bucket bottom 101. The platform 12 further comprises a plurality of ridges 26 disposed radially on the platform 12 from a center 28 to a platform perimeter 30. The ridges 26 assist a user in rinsing water from a washing cloth.

The skirt 14 supports the platform 12 above a skirt distal end 34 adapted to rest on the bucket bottom 101. The skirt 14 is sized to extend to the bucket wall or walls 102 and flexes resiliently to adapt to the bucket wall or walls as the skirt extends to the wall or walls thus providing an effective splash shield between the screen and the bucket wall. A flange 32 on the skirt distal end 34 extends horizontally from the skirt 14 to engage the bucket wall 102. To allow the skirt 14 to flex and adapt to a narrowing bucket wall diameter, the skirt has vertical slits 36 opening to the skirt distal end 34 allowing the skirt 14 to bend resiliently as the flange 32 rides on the bucket wall 102.

The platform 12 and skirt 14 also include channels 38 on the platform perimeter 30 at lower perimeter portions 22 that extend along the skirt 14 to the skirt distal end 34. Run-off and debris from the platform is thus received in the channels and channeled to the bucket bottom outside of the skirt.